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PART VI

S O C I A L

SECTION 1                      PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

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GENERAL

1. The month of May was characterized by increased activity in all sections of the Department of Public Health and Welfare. Repatriation of Korean refugees stranded in Mukden, Manchuria, got under way during the month with the arrival of four ships carrying 3,800 refugees. Efficient preventive measures during the debarking and quarantine periods resulted in a particularly low disease rate. Other activities of the Department during May included inspection of a leper settlement in northeast Seoul and the planning of a new leper colony at Anyang. An increased amount of medical supplies was received for distribution; a number of new refugee low-cost housing units were completed, and two new child agencies were opened in Seoul and Taegu.

VITAL STATISTICS

2. A study on morbidity statistics was begun by the Vital Statistics Section, using case records of the Seoul University out-patient department over the last 10 years.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

Communicable Diseases

3. On 25 May several cases of smallpox were reported among the constabulary on the island of Cheju. Fresh vaccine was sent by air the following day and no further cases developed.

4. The repatriation of Korean refugees from Manchuria started this month with the arrival from Tientsin of the first ship, the LST KBM-010, on 10 May. This ship carried 1,091 refugees who were transferred directly to a quarantine camp at Inchon, where they remained under guard for a 14-day quarantine period. No serious



communicable diseases appeared among the refugees, although there were several cases of measles among the children, and seven deaths due to pneumonia complicating measles. All refugees received a complete series of inoculations against typhus, typhoid, cholera and smallpox together with medical examinations and periodic dusting with DDT.

5. The second shipload of 1,240 refugees, which arrived at Inchon on 24 May, disembarked at another quarantine camp on Wolmido Island. The following day an unauthorized shipment of 441 refugees arrived at Inchon aboard a Japanese vessel, the Bogoto Maru. They also were placed in the camp on Wolmido Island, which had to be enlarged. No serious diseases broke out among this group.

6. On 30 May, the refugee ship Tachibana Maru arrived from Tientsin carrying 1,070 repatriates. Among these were two cases of smallpox, one leper and one typhoid suspect. These patients immediately were placed in the Inchon isolation hospital. The other refugees were quarantined and the entire camp was revaccinated.

#### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

7. The major efforts of all General Relief Bureau personnel during the month were expended on the movement of Mukden refugees from Tientsin. In addition to providing employees to assure minimum care and to protect the general welfare of the refugees on the LST KBM-010 and the Tachibana Maru, it was necessary for the Bureau to build and provision a complete new refugee camp to supplement the Inchon camp's facilities. The construction of a third camp was ordered to receive the next 1,000 refugees, due to arrive about 3 June. The new camp is to be located on the waterfront to facilitate disembarkation. Welfare officers were to be provided from the General Relief Bureau staff.

#### Low-Cost Housing

8. In Kyongsang-namdo, 2,106 low-cost housing units were completed from September 1947 to May 1948 under the Welfare Housing Plan for Refugee Families. These housing units were widely distributed throughout the province (table 1). In addition, Kyongsang-namdo provincial and local welfare officers have under construction or have planned another 1,439 units. Of this total, 810 are to be constructed in Pusan.

Table 1. Low-cost Housing Units Constructed in Kyongsang-namdo  
1 September 1947 - 31 May 1948

	<u>Units completed</u>		<u>Units completed</u>		<u>Units completed</u>
Pusan-pu	400	Miryang	50	Kosung	30
Masan-pu	180	Yangsang	70	Sachon	40
Chinju-pu	30	Ulsan	170	Nambal	75
Chingyang	50	Yongnae	26	Haclong	57
Viryong	35	Kimbae	360	Sanchong	35
Hamman	35	Changwon	234	Hochung	35
Changyong	40	Tongyong	85	Hypchon	35
Total				2,106	

SOURCE: Department of Public Health and Welfare.



## Welfare Institutions

9. During May, grants were made from the UNRRA Special Fund to five projects improving social welfare institutions:

a. A grant of 800,000 won was made to the Po Wha Won Orphanage in Seoul to erect a new annex which will make possible the care of 75 or more children. The Buddhist group which sponsors the institution contributed more than 1,000,000 won.

b. A grant of 1,000,000 won was made to Chungchong-namdo for the Toko Hot Springs Training School, a provincial institution for vagrant boys. The province will contribute funds equal to those given by UNRRA. This institution will care for 100 boys when building repairs are completed.

c. A total of 2,450,000 won in UNRRA funds was granted Kyongsang-namdo for a provincial training school for boys to enable it to make repairs to dormitories, bathhouses, laundry, warehouse and auditorium. Lumber and carpenter's tools also will be purchased to make desks, tables and chairs.

d. A grant of 1,300,000 won was made another Kyongsang-namdo boys' training school to make possible repair of class and sleeping rooms and improve the training program. The school cares for 300 boys.

10. During the month two new child welfare institutions were licensed. The Taegu Nursery, an institution for the care of infants, will be operated by the city government. The Chun Yang Won Orphanage, privately sponsored, cares for 22 boys.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

11. Thirty-eight doctors were examined for internships in four U. S. Army hospitals in Korea. Sixteen were selected on the basis of their scientific training and ability in written and spoken English.

## Leper Settlement

12. A visit was made to a leper settlement northeast of Seoul by representatives of the Department of Public Health and Welfare from Seoul and Kyonggi-do. One hundred lepers were found to be living in caves in unsanitary and unhealthy conditions. A visit also was made to Anyang to inspect a possible site for a leper village - 1,000 acres formerly used by the Japanese army as an ammunition dump. Negotiations were started by W. O. McMillan of the City of Seoul Public Health and Welfare to lease the land from the Office of Property Custody.

## NURSING AFFAIRS

13. Qualification examinations and special examinations for nurses and midwives were conducted by the staff of the Office of Nursing Affairs on 25, 26 and 27 May, with the following number taking the various examinations: Nurses' Qualification Examination, 102; Nurses' Special Examination, 10; Midwives' Qualification Examination, 124, and Midwives' Special Examination, six.

14. Twenty applications were received for a three-month nurses' training course offered by the Office of Nursing Affairs. This course will begin on 1 June.

15. The Korean Nurses' Association held its second annual meeting from 19 to 22 May. Approximately 150 nurses and midwives attended each of the morning and afternoon sessions.



16. The Seoul City Midwives' Association held its annual meeting on 25 May. Approximately 200 attended.

#### VETERINARY AFFAIRS

17. Extensive sanitary improvements to the Seoul Wholesale Fish Market, the largest in the country, were completed during the first part of May. The repair and remodeling were supervised by veterinary inspectors of both the National Veterinary Service and the Seoul City Veterinary Service. Seoul now has a market which meets the most modern requirements of sanitation, officials said.

18. The chief veterinarians of each province and of Seoul City met with officials of the National Bureau of Veterinary Affairs in a two-day conference 20-21 May. A plan was proposed to transfer to the Department of Agriculture all veterinary functions and responsibilities which are performed as a service to and in support of the livestock industry. This would leave only veterinary public health functions (inspection of meat, milk and seafoods) under the Department of Public Health and Welfare.

19. A comprehensive survey of the physical condition of horses belonging to the Mounted Unit of the Seoul Metropolitan Police was started during May by the clinical staff at the hospital of the Veterinary College, Seoul University. The survey was intended to secure statistical information.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL AFFAIRS

20. Fifty-eight carloads of assorted medical supplies were received in Seoul by the Bureau of Pharmaceutical Affairs. The supplies consisted principally of drugs, chemicals, bandages, dental and X-ray equipment.

21. Arrangements were completed for distribution of 50,000 yards of white cotton sheeting to hospitals in South Korea. The cloth was woven in Korea from cotton imported through the Civilian Supply program, and was allocated to the Department of Public Health and Welfare by the Consumer Goods Allocation Board for distribution.

#### NARCOTICS SECTION

22. Three agents of the Narcotics Section were sent to eight provinces during May to work in cooperation with provincial officials of the Public Health and Welfare Narcotics Section in controlling illegal poppy growing.

23. Narcotics licenses issued during May included:

Pharmacists	4
Practitioners	30
Dealers handling narcotics	2

24. The chief of the Narcotics Section made an inspection of conditions in Kangwon-do in regard to smuggling activities and recommended that three agents of the Narcotics Section be assigned permanently to this locality to check narcotics smuggling.

#### LABORATORIES

25. Production of biologicals at the National Vaccine Laboratory in Seoul fell below requirements because of the power shortage. Generators were received, however, and production was expected to be increased sufficiently to make up the deficiency.